

End of the Year Newsletter and Return to School - September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

So, we reach the end of a very strange and disrupted school year here at Reculver, but one which has also been filled with successes. You all need to be congratulated on your role in teaching your children, in conjunction with their class teachers, over the past terms. However, it has been lovely to welcome back nearly the entire school population over the last week: it's been great to see those smiling faces skipping in through the multitude of gates to come into school and meet their new class team.

Since the government announced plans to have all children back to school in September 2020, the senior leaders have been busy planning for a safe return for both children and staff. Our transition week last week has allowed us to trial some of the plans and procedures with half of the school on our transition days, ready for when the whole school returns. Our intention is to make the transition for all the children as smooth and welcoming as possible and I am very much looking forward to seeing all of the children back in September.

As with all major announcements, we have tried to act swiftly to inform you of the school's intentions. Please note that all plans could change very quickly, dependant on government guidelines over the summer, as we have been told that there will be an update to the guidance being released on the 11th August – a mid-holiday treat for us school leaders. If the guidance stays the same then the return to school will be as follows:

Bubbles

With all children at school there will be approximately 500 children within the school building. We are planning to split the children into four different 'Key-Stage Phase Bubbles' as this will allow us some academic flexibility such as phonics groupings, sets and interventions. However, for the most part children will be based in their pastoral classes, therefore kept apart as much as possible. We will restrict the movement of most adults between the classrooms too and all four bubbles will have separate school entrances, playtimes and lunchtimes.

Illness

Important – Please do not send your child to school if they have symptoms of Coronavirus

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home immediately and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

For more information about testing please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Start and Finish times

Years 1-6 will return to school on **Wednesday 2nd September**.

Early Years will start on **Monday 7th September**.

School will now begin slightly earlier in the day with registration at **8.40am**

<p><u>Year 5 and Year 6 Bubbles-</u></p> <p>Year 5 and 6 will enter via the Upper School door, next to the nursery gate. Doors open at 8.30am and close at 8.40 am.</p> <p>School ends for Year 5 at 3.20pm and they will be dismissed from the playground. Parents are asked to follow the one way system on site and exit via the nursery gate</p> <p>The Year 6 day will end at 3:20pm and will exit via the Upper School door, next to the nursery gate.</p> <p>We would appreciate parents only accompanying children to the door if an urgent message needs to be passed to the duty teacher, to minimise the number of adults on site. Please leave your child and watch them enter the building at a distance. If parents of the older children are able to meet their children at the school gate at pickup, this will minimise some queuing on the school grounds.</p>	<p><u>Year 1 and Year 2 Bubbles-</u></p> <p>Year 1 will enter via the normal metal entrance gate. Doors open at 8.30am and close at 8.40 am.</p> <p>Year 1 children will be dismissed from the playground at 3.15pm Ladybirds will exit from the courtyard by the SEN outside area Crickets will be dismissed via their classroom door. Parents are asked to then exit the school site via the nursery gate, following the one way system.</p> <p>Year 2 enter school via the hall door. Doors open at 8.30am and close at 8.40 am. The school day will end for Year 2 at 3.15pm</p> <p>Busy Bees and Grasshoppers will be dismissed from outside the hall door at the front of the school. Fireflies will be dismissed from their classroom door, opposite the nursery and then parents are asked to exit the school site via the nursery gate, following the one way system. Please could parents not walk through the EYFS outside area to reach the Fireflies Class.</p> <p>Staff will be on hand on day one to guide you to the correct place!</p>
<p><u>Lower Key Stage 2 Bubble-Years 3 and 4</u></p> <p>Year 3/4 will enter via the brown courtyard gate, to the left of the main office. The gate will open at 8.30am and closes at 8.40am</p> <p>We would appreciate parents only accompanying children to the gate in the morning if an urgent message needs to be passed to the duty teacher, to minimise the number of adults grouping together on site. After the first few days, please leave your child and watch them enter the gate at a distance.</p> <p>School ends for Year 3/4 at 3.20pm and they will be dismissed from the playground. Parents are asked to follow the one way system on site and exit via the nursery gate</p>	<p><u>EYFS Bubble -</u></p> <p>Early Years parents will enter via the main school metal gate and make their way to the EY classrooms via their outside area. The gate will open at 8.30am and the first lesson will begin at 8.40am. Parents are invited to take their child to the classroom during the first week, and then to the class door in the second week when they have settled in.</p> <p>The day ends at 3.10pm Children will be dismissed from the classroom door and parents are then asked to exit the EY area via the gate at the bottom of the garden and then exit school via the nursey gate, following the one way system.</p>



- Please follow the one-way system in place and adhere to social distancing rules wherever possible.
- We ask that if your child is accompanied to school, only one parent/carer should attend to minimise the number of people on the school site at any one time and that wherever possible, you let your child walk up to the gates independently, to avoid close groupings. Thank you
- Children (from years 5 and 6) can walk to and from school without an adult, provided permission has been given in writing.
- Please drop off and collect your child quickly – no waiting in the playground or gathering outside the school gates, in order to meet the government guidelines.

Please do not arrive before your allocated time. Important consolidation lessons will now start for all children at 8.40am so it is important that children are in school punctually: any child arriving after this time will be marked in as late

Friday afternoon:

Further to our earlier correspondence about wider opening, the governing body has decided that bubbles will continue to end school after lunch on Friday afternoons, to allow for staff preparation, planning and assessment time and deep cleaning of the school. This has worked very well over the last term and needs to continue, to avoid the mixing of bubbles as would happen due to our normal procedures and working practices, which can no longer be followed. You will notice that the school day is now slightly longer for all children, and times within the day have also been adjusted, so that there is no loss of learning time.

Early Years will (from week 2) finish at **12.50pm** and will be dismissed from their normal dismissal points and exit via the one way system.

Year 1 and 2 will finish at **12:55pm** and will be dismissed from their normal dismissal points and exit via the one way system.

Years 3-6 will finish at **1.00pm** and will be dismissed from their normal dismissal points and exit via the one way system.

There will be some provision for parents who are unable to collect due to work commitments: in order to plan the provision, we would ask anyone in this position to **contact the school office as soon as possible on receipt of this letter.**

Daily Routine

All bubbles will continue to follow a similar routine that they were used to before lockdown.

Worship – Daily worship will take place in each classroom or via Skype. The hall will not be used for whole school worship but may be used for year group worships.

Playtime – Each bubble will be allocated their own playtime slot within a specific playground zone

Lunchtime – We will still offer the option of a choice of hot school meals, as well as a school packed lunch. If you would like your child to have a hot school meal, please note that they will be sat in one of the school halls on an allocated table for their bubble.

School Dinners – these will be priced at £2.25 per child from September for children in Year 3-6 – an increase of 2p per meal which should be paid for in advance through Parent Pay. Children in R, 1 and 2 continue to be entitled to a free school meal each day.

Handwashing – There will continue to be a focus on handwashing and the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' campaign. Hand sanitiser is available in all areas for the children to access, and the staff in classrooms will be continuing to clean the surfaces and 'touchpoints' with anti-viral spray regularly throughout the day.

Breakfast/After School Club – We will be offering this facility as we feel our hall and outside areas are big enough to accommodate a mixture of children from the various bubbles although, every effort will be made to minimise the mixing of bubbles. If you would like to use this service, please contact Kindergarten Kids <https://www.kindergartenkids.co.uk/>



After School Extra Curricular Clubs – There will be limited after school clubs for the first term, however we hope to offer more opportunities as the year progresses. We will keep you updated.

Before and After School Catch Up/Pre-Teaching Interventions – We will be extending our before and after school interventions, to allow us to put in catch up provision for identified children. Class teachers will be in touch with individual parents if your child is identified to receive some additional provision. This will be offered as a block of group sessions, and one group will finish their block of sessions before support is offered to the next group of children, so as to reach as many children as possible.

Equipment – We would like to encourage children to bring in their own set of equipment, to minimise sharing as much as possible. We do not usually encourage children in KS1 to bring in a pencil case, but understand that at this time, you may want your child to have their own set of pencils and pens. Year 1 and 2 would need coloured pencils, an HB pencil and eraser and a glue stick. In Key Stage Two, children will need an HB pencil, eraser, colouring pencils, a black and a blue Berol handwriting pen and a glue stick. Pencil cases should be as small as possible in order to easily fit into their trays (no huge Smiggle or similar pencil cases please as they do not fit in trays or on desks) School bags should not need to be brought into school, but a reading book bag should be used for their reading books, and any pieces of homework. If a bag is brought in, it should be no larger than 36cm high and 30cm wide, and not too deep. PE bags should be kept in the child's locker/peg, where coats and lunch boxes will also be stored during the school day. There is no room in lockers for large backpacks or additional bags, hence the size limit. If a child is going to a friend's/relative's house after school and need a bigger bag on occasion, this can be stored safely in the teacher's cupboard.

Water Bottles – Each child MUST have their own, named water bottle with a sports cap lid. This is to avoid cross contamination/sharing of cups.

The School Curriculum

The curriculum will look slightly different in September to the normal school timetable, as we implement a programme of quick recovery and catch up for all children. The emphasis on well-being will, as ever be vital and teachers will spend time with children at the beginning of school to reflect and settle them quickly back into a normal routine of learning.

Attendance

We have been asked to tell you that all children must return to school in September. All of the children that have returned to school so far have had a really wonderful transition, they have been happy and really pleased to be back. The government have also indicated strongly that penalty notices will be issued by the local authority for non-attendance. We will, of course, be mindful of family circumstances where there are extremely vulnerable people living within the household, leading to absences.

Hopefully, you now have a better insight as to what school life at Reculver will look like when your child returns. As ever, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Enjoy your summer and try not to worry! Children are amazing and resilient, and with the continued support of you at home and planning from the wonderful teaching staff at Reculver, they will soon be back on track!

As always, thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful summer break.

Mrs J Ashley-Jones



Headteacher

